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CUSTOMER NUMBER 25268

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Seung-Ho Hong et al.

Attorney Docket No: MESO0026

Serial No: 09/686,917

Group Art Unit: 1764

Filed: October 9, 2000

Examiner: Doroshenk, Alexa A

Title: INTEGRAL COMPACT HEAT EXCHANGER AND CATALYTIC REACTOR  
FOR SCAVENGING CONTAMINANTS FROM AIR

ELECTION IN RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Bellevue, Washington 98004

July 12, 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

A. Election in Response to a Restriction Requirement Transmittal

Transmitted herewith is an election in response to the above identified patent application.

B. Additional Fee Charges or Credit for Overpayment

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-1940.

A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. King  
Registration No. 44,832

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope, as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 12, 2004.

Date: July 12, 2004



CUSTOMER NUMBER 5268

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Serial No: 09/686,917 Group Art Unit: 1764  
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ELECTION IN RESPONSE TO A RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Bellevue, Washington 98004

July 12, 2004

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

The following is in response to the Office Action dated June 17, 2004, in which the Examiner restricted the above-identified patent application. The Examiner asserts that the pending claims are directed to a plurality of patentably distinct inventions.

The Examiner initially classifies the plurality of patentably distinct inventions into two groups; Group I (encompassing Claims 1-53 and 61-69) being directed to a product classified in Class 422, subclass 129, and Group II (encompassing Claims 54-60) being directed to a method classified in Class 29, subclass 17.1. The Examiner argues that the inventions are distinct because the product can be made by methods not limited to those defined in Claims 54-60, such as a method that does not comprise forming orifices into metal sheets (the broadest apparatus claims do not recite such orifices).

Applicants affirmatively elect Group I.

The Examiner cautions that if claims in Group I are elected, the claims of Group I are further classifiable into four Sub-Groups, each corresponding to a distinguishable invention. Sub-Group IA encompasses Claims 1-11, 32-49, and 50-53, and is directed to a system for thermal treatment. Sub-Group IB encompasses Claims 12-31 and 63-67, and is directed to a system for deactivating chemical and biological contaminants. Sub-Group IC encompasses Claims 61 and 62, and is directed to a system for thermal treatment of air. Sub-Group ID encompasses Claims 68 and 69, and is directed to a system for chemical production.

1 Applicants affirmatively elect Group IA.

2 The Examiner further cautions that if claims in Group IA are elected, the claims of Group IA  
3 are further classifiable into two further Sub-Groups, each again corresponding to a distinguishable  
4 invention. Sub-Group IA(i) encompasses Claims 1-11, 32-49, and 50, and is directed to a system for  
5 thermal treatment. Sub-Group IA(ii) encompasses Claims 51-53, and is directed to a method for  
6 thermally treating a fluid using a counter-flow heat exchanger (a counterflow heat exchanger is not  
7 recited in Claims 1-11, 32-49, and 50).

8 Applicants affirmatively elect Group IA(i), including Claims 1-11, 32-49, and 50, reserving  
9 the right to file additional copending applications directed to the non elected claims.

10  
11 Respectfully submitted,

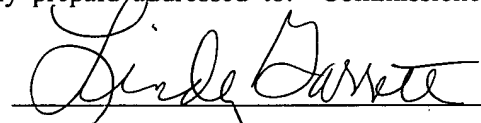
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15 Michael C. King  
16 Registration No. 44,832

17 MAILING CERTIFICATE:

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